

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera, ~~according to claim 1, further~~ comprising:

an image-capturing device that stores a signal electrical charge achieved by performing photoelectric conversion on a subject image projected on a photosensitive surface and reads out the signal electrical charge to generate an image signal;

a photographing preparation device that executes photographing preparations including a mechanical operation for photoelectric conversion performed at the image-capturing device;

a mirror mechanism;

a shutter ~~meehanism~~-mechanism; and

an aperture mechanism, wherein

the photographing preparations include a mirror down performed by the mirror mechanism;

the photographic preparation device executes at least the mirror down performed by the mirror mechanism for photographing a next frame during an electrical charge read period at the image-capturing device; and

~~said the~~ photographing preparation device completes a shutter charge performed by ~~said the~~ shutter mechanism and the mirror down performed by ~~said the~~ mirror mechanism to enable photographing of the next frame and starts a mirror up performed by ~~said the~~ mirror mechanism and aperture control performed by ~~said the~~ aperture mechanism to enable photographing of the next frame during an electrical charge read period at ~~said the~~ image capturing device.

4. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera, ~~according to claim 1, further~~  
comprising:

an image-capturing device that stores a signal electrical charge achieved by performing photoelectric conversion on a subject image projected on a photosensitive surface and reads out the signal electrical charge to generate an image signal;

a photographing preparation device that executes photographing preparations including a mechanical operation for photoelectric conversion performed at the image-capturing device;

a mirror mechanism;

a focal adjustment device; and

a photometric device, wherein

the photographing preparations include a mirror down performed by the mirror mechanism;

the photographic preparation device executes at least the mirror down performed by the mirror mechanism for photographing a next frame during an electrical charge read period at the image-capturing device; and

~~said the~~ photographing preparation device completes the mirror down performed by ~~said the~~ mirror mechanism to enable photographing of the next frame and then implements focal adjustment by ~~said the~~ focal adjustment device and photometry by ~~said the~~ photometric device, during an electrical charge read period at ~~said the~~ image capturing device.

5. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera according to ~~claim 1, claim 3,~~  
further comprising:

a continuous shooting command device that issues a command to perform continuous shooting, wherein

~~said the~~ photographic preparation device executes at least the mirror down performed by ~~said the~~ mirror mechanism for the next frame during the electrical charge read

period at ~~said image capturing the image-capturing~~ device while a command to perform continuous shooting issued by ~~said the~~ continuous shooting command device is in effect.

6. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera according to ~~claim 1,~~ claim 3, wherein

\_\_\_\_\_ ~~said the~~ photographing preparation device includes a drive motor that drives the photographing preparation and implements rotational drive of ~~said the~~ drive motor during the electrical charge read period at ~~said the~~ image-capturing device.

7. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera according to ~~claim 1,~~ claim 3, wherein

\_\_\_\_\_ ~~said the~~ photographing preparation device includes a drive motor that sequentially drives a plurality of photographing preparations in correspondence to a rotating angle and implements rotational drive of ~~said the~~ drive motor during the electrical charge read period at ~~said the~~ image capturing device.

8. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera according to ~~claim 1,~~ claim 3, wherein

operation timing is set in advance at least at either ~~said the~~ photographing preparation device or ~~said image capturing the image-capturing~~ device to ensure that the electrical charge read period does not overlap a period over which a subject image of the next frame is projected onto ~~said the~~ photosensitive surface.

9. (Currently Amended) An electronic camera, ~~comprising according to claim 3,~~ wherein:

\_\_\_\_\_ ~~an image capturing device that stores a signal electrical charge achieved by performing photoelectric conversion on a subject image projected on a photosensitive surface and reads out the signal electrical charge to generate an image signal;~~

\_\_\_\_\_ ~~a photographing preparation device that executes photographing preparations for photoelectric conversion performed at said image capturing device; and~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ a mirror mechanism, wherein:~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ said photographic preparations include a mirror down performed by said~~  
~~mirror mechanism,~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ said photographic preparation device executes at least the mirror down~~  
~~performed by said mirror mechanism for photographing a next frame during an electrical~~  
~~charge read period at said image capturing device, and~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ said the~~ photographing preparation device performs detection of a completion  
of a signal electrical charge read operation performed by ~~said image capturing the image-~~  
~~capturing~~ device and following the detection, projects a subject image onto ~~said the~~  
photosensitive surface.

10. (Previously Presented) An electronic camera, comprising:

an image-capturing device that stores a signal electrical charge achieved by  
performing photoelectric conversion on a subject image projected on a photosensitive surface  
and reads out the signal electrical charge to generate an image signal;

a photographing preparation device that executes photographing preparations  
for photoelectric conversion performed at ~~said the~~ image-capturing device, wherein  
~~\_\_\_\_\_ said the~~ photographing preparation device executes at least some of ~~said the~~  
photographing preparations for photographing a next frame during an electrical charge read  
period at ~~said the~~ image-capturing device; and

a time count device that measures at least a part of a length of time required  
for the photographing preparation, wherein

at least either ~~said the~~ photographing preparation device or ~~said image~~  
~~capturing the image-capturing~~ device adjusts operation timing to ensure that a signal electrical  
charge read period does not overlap a period over which a subject image for the next frame is  
projected onto ~~said the~~ photosensitive surface based upon results of count of the length of  
required time performed by ~~said the~~ time count device.

11. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 4, further comprising:

a continuous shooting command device that issues a command to perform continuous shooting, wherein

the photographic preparation device executes at least the mirror down performed by the mirror mechanism for the next frame during the electrical charge read period at the image-capturing device while a command to perform continuous shooting issued by the continuous shooting command device is in effect.

12. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 4, wherein

the photographing preparation device includes a drive motor that drives the photographing preparation and implements rotational drive of the drive motor during the electrical charge read period at the image-capturing device.

13. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 4, wherein

the photographing preparation device includes a drive motor that sequentially drives a plurality of photographing preparations in correspondence to a rotating angle and implements rotational drive of the drive motor during the electrical charge read period at the image-capturing device.

14. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 4, wherein  
operation timing is set in advance at least at either the photographing  
preparation device or the image-capturing device to ensure that the electrical charge read  
period does not overlap a period over which a subject image of the next frame is projected  
onto the photosensitive surface.

15. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 4, wherein:  
the photographing preparation device performs detection of a completion of a  
signal electrical charge read operation performed by the image-capturing device and  
following the detection, projects a subject image onto the photosensitive surface.

16. (New) An electronic camera, comprising:  
a shutter mechanism that turns a shutter to an opened state or a closed state;  
and  
a mirror mechanism that performs a mirror up operation and a mirror down  
operation;  
an image-capturing device that stores an electrical charge achieved by  
performing photoelectric conversion on a subject image projected on a photosensitive surface  
within a period when the shutter is in the opened state and reads out the electrical charge to  
generate an image signal after the shutter is turned to the closed state;  
a photographing preparation device that executes photographing preparations  
including the mirror down operation performed by the mirror mechanism for photographing a  
next frame, wherein  
the photographic preparation device executes the mirror down operation  
performed by the mirror mechanism in parallel with reading out of the electrical charge stored  
within a just previous period when the shutter was in the opened state.

17. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 16, further comprising:  
at least one of an aperture mechanism and a focal adjustment device, wherein  
the photographing preparations for the next frame further include at least one  
of a shutter charge performed by the shutter mechanism, the mirror up operation performed  
by the mirror mechanism, aperture control performed by the aperture mechanism, and focal  
adjustment performed by the focal adjustment device, to enable photographing of the next  
frame.

18. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 16, wherein  
the photographic preparation device starts the mirror down operation after the  
reading out of the electrical charge starts, and then executes the mirror down operation in  
parallel with reading out of the electrical charge.

19. (New) An electronic camera according to claim 16, wherein  
the photographic preparation device starts the mirror down operation before  
the reading out of the electrical charge starts, and then executes the mirror down operation in  
parallel with reading out of the electrical charge.